

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A shim comprising

a body having first and second faces, the body being molded from a mixture of plastics and cellulose fiber that deters splintering and splitting,

a plurality of grooves and ridges formed in the body along the first face, the body being cleanly breakable along a groove of the plurality of grooves, and

a rim extending about and above openings and tops of the plurality of grooves and ridges, wherein a top of the rim is in spaced relation with the openings and tops of the plurality of grooves and ridges.

2. (Original) The shim of claim 1 wherein the rim is contiguous with the surface of the first face beyond the plurality of grooves and ridges.

3. (Currently Amended) The shim of claim 1 wherein the rim extends about the outer boundaries of the first face and wherein the top of the shim rim is in spaced relation with a surface of the first face.

4. (Original) The shim of claim 1 wherein the base of each groove of the plurality of grooves and ridges forms a break line.

5. (Original) The shim of claim 4 wherein the break lines are spaced apart at a predetermined distance.

6. (Original) The shim of claim 5 wherein the predetermined distance is about 3/16 inches.

7. (Currently Amended) The shim of claim 4 wherein the thickness of the body between a base of each groove of the plurality of grooves and ridges and the second face of the body is maintained at a constant thickness to maintain the force required to break the body along any of the grooves of the plurality of grooves and ridges at a constant level comprises a mixture of plastics and fiber.

8. (Original) The shim of claim 7 wherein the mixture of plastics and fiber comprises plastic in a range of about 66% to 75% by weight and fiber in a range of about 22% to 29.5% by weight.

9. (Original) The shim of claim 8 wherein the mixture of plastics and fiber comprises plastic at about 71% by weight.

10. (Original) The shim of claim 8 wherein the mixture of plastics and fiber comprises fiber at about 25% by weight.

11. (Original) The shim of claim 7 wherein the plastics in the mixture of plastics and fiber includes polyolefin thermoplastics.

12. (Original) The shim of claim 11 wherein the polyolefin thermoplastics have a melt flow rate (MFR) of about 25 to 35 g/10 minutes.

13. (Original) The shim of claim 7 wherein the fiber in the mixture of plastics and fiber comprises cellulose fiber.

14. (Original) The shim of claim 13 wherein the cellulose fiber is sourced from paper mill reject streams.

15. (Currently Amended) The shim of claim ~~13~~ 14 wherein the cellulose fiber is sourced from ~~paper sludge an old corrugated cardboard waste stream of the paper mill reject streams.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The shim of claim 14 wherein the cellulose fiber and plastics are indigenous to the paper mill reject streams.

17. (New) The shim of claim 1 wherein the body is deformable when bent and breakable along a groove of the plurality of grooves and ridges when the body is bent beyond a breaking point.